

What Is Claimed is:

1. A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric,
comprising;

- 5
- a. providing a precursor web,
 - b. providing a three-dimensional image transfer device,
 - c. hydroentangling said precursor web on said image transfer device to form a patterned and imaged nonwoven fabric, and
 - d. applying a binder finish to said nonwoven fabric to impart flame-retardant properties, followed by curing of said binder finish.

10 2. A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein:

said precursor web comprise polyester fibers.

3. A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 2, wherein:

15 said precursor web comprise flame-retardant polyester fibers.

4. A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein:

said precursor web is hydroentangled on a formainous surface prior to said step of hydroentangling said precursor web on said image transfer device.

20 5. A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein:

said flame-retardant properties are imparted by a halogenated urethane derivative.

25 6. A method of manufacturing a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric, comprising:

- a. providing a precursor web,
- b. providing a three-dimensional image transfer device,
- c. hydroentangling said precursor web on said image transfer device to form a patterned and imaged nonwoven fabric,

d. applying a binder finish to said nonwoven fabric to impart flame-retardant properties, followed by curing of said binder finish,

e. dyeing of said nonwoven fabric.

7. A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 6, wherein:

said nonwoven fabric is dyed by the method selected from the means consisting of jet dyeing, disperse dying, pad dyeing, screen printing, transfer printing, and the combinations thereof.

8. A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric, comprising:

a. providing a precursor web,

b. said precursor web being imaged and patterned by hydroentanglement on a three-dimensional image transfer device to form a nonwoven fabric,

c. said nonwoven fabric receiving a substantially uniform application of a flame-retardant binder finish followed by a curing step,

d. the resulting fabric exhibiting a weight loss due to vertical flame of less than 42%, an abrasion resistance of at least 50 Tabor cycles, and a tensile strength in the machine direction of at least 38 pounds.

9. A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 8, wherein:

said nonwoven fabric exhibiting a final basis weight of between about 2.0 ounces per square yard and about 6.0 ounces per square yard.

10. A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 9, wherein:

said nonwoven fabric exhibiting a final basis weight of between 2.5 ounces per square yard and 3.5 ounces per square yard.

11. A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 8, wherein:

said nonwoven fabric used in the fabrication of wall coverings.

12. A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 8, wherein:

said fabric is employed in upholstery and drapery applications, and has a final basis weight between about 2.0 ounces per square yard and about 10.0 ounces per square yard.

13. A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 12, wherein:
said fabric has a final basis weight between 3.0 ounces per square yard
and 6.0 ounces per square yard.

5 14. A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 8, wherein:
said fabric is employed in window covering applications, and has a
final basis weight between about 0.5 ounces per square yard and 6.0 ounces
per square yard.

10 15. A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 14, wherein:
said fabric has a final basis weight between about 1.0 ounces per square
yard and 4.0 ounces per square yard.